



## Opportunity Knocks in Agriscience

Tap student's interests, doors open for involvement

### CREATIVITY IS KEY

BY HAILEY ROBERTSON

There are many ways agriscience can be brought into the classroom and agriculture education instructors put their creativity to work in getting students involved in projects. Agriscience can include any topic pertaining to the agriculture or food science industries. Botany, engineering, environmental sciences, zoology and biochemistry/microbiology/food science are the categories for the National FFA Agriscience Fair.

#### ***Boonville FFA***

According to Deanna Thies, agriculture education instructor for the Boonville FFA Chapter, "The best way to get students involved is to find something

Mansfield FFA member Scott Davis measures test samples in the Spectronic 20. Scott and Devon Huff exhibited their research at the Ozark Empire Fair last July and also at the Missouri State Fair in August.

they are interested in or can relate to within their current life or future ambitions."

At Boonville, most of the Agriscience courses include horticulture, floriculture and plant sciences.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE D**



### Table of Contents

#### **PAGE B**

The President's Position

#### **PAGE C**

Meet Your 2011-12 State Officers

#### **PAGE E**

Agriscience Student Recognition

#### **PAGE F**

Finding the Funds

#### **PAGE H**

Chapter's Grocery Store Helps Town

#### **PAGE J**

In their Words

#### **PAGE N**

Speak Out: Fall Speaking Contests

#### **PAGE O**

FFA Calendar

# THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION

Start off on the right foot this school year

## 2011-2012 State FFA Officers

### Area Officer

- |    |                                            |
|----|--------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Evan Grusenmeyer - 1st V.P.<br>Smithville  |
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| 14 | Trina Stumpe<br>Sullivan                   |
| 15 | Adam Birk<br>Jackson                       |
| 16 | Sarah Davis<br>Poplar Bluff                |
| 7  | Jon Black - Past Pres.<br>Chillicothe      |

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## BY BRADY JAMES STATE FFA PRESIDENT

I was so excited for sixth grade. I would no longer be one of the “little kids” in the elementary school. Sixth grade brought with it something very exciting—a locker. I no longer had to keep all of my stuff in a cramped little desk.

Sixth grade also meant school dances and a lunch period where you didn't have to sit boy-girl style. Most exciting of all was the fact that sixth grade brought the opportunity to play real sports, not just the games on the playground. That is when my love for track began.

My track career began in the sixth grade with me running hurdles, and I continued running this event through my senior year of high school. The first thing I learned about hurdles was every step matters. With just one misstep you can end up flat on your face, which is why it is crucial to start off on the right foot.

The beginning of the school year is similar to running a hurdle race. It is very important to get



started on the right foot to set yourself on the fast track to the finish line. Establish your goals for the year early so you know what you want to work toward. This gives you time to realize the right steps you need to take to achieve these goals. When you encounter obstacles and road blocks, do not become discouraged. Keep your goal in mind in order to overcome the hurdles. Start the year off on the right foot by planting your goals early, so you can harvest your success later.

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# 2011-12 Missouri FFA Officers

## Who's who on this year's team

### Front Row L-R

**SARAH DAVIS**

V.P., Area 16 • Poplar Bluff

**JILL BLANKENSHIP**

V.P., Area 8 • Eldon

**MEGAN MAYFIELD**

V.P., Area 10 • Fair Grove

**BRADY JAMES**

President., Area 3 • Knox Co.

**KELSEY FORQUERAN**

Secretary, Area 6 • Malta Bend

**SAMANTHA WHITTAKER**

V.P., Area 9 • Miller

### Middle Row L-R

**KOLLEN CHAPMAN**

V.P., Area 7 • Osceola

**CODY JONES**

V.P., Area 4 • Fulton

**JOHN LITTLEFIELD**

V.P., Area 11 • Diamond

**TRINA STUMPE**

V.P., Area 14 • Sullivan

**MEAGAN GREEN**

V.P., Area 12 • Branson

### Back Row L-R

**LANE HOWARD**

V.P., Area 13 • Salem

**COREY HUDSON**

V.P., Area 5 • Silex

**ZACH GROSSMAN**

V.P., Area 2 • Tina-Avalon

**EVAN GRUSENMEYER**

1st. V.P., Area 1 • Smithville

**ADAM BIRK**

V.P., Area 15 • Jackson

**JOHN BLACK**

Past State President



## CONT'D FROM PAGE A

Thies teaches what she says to be one of the most basic forms of agriscience and laboratory work—plant propagation.

“I begin teaching students basic cutting methods as 8th graders in my Rural and Urban Living class and progress their learning and skills while they are enrolled in Agricultural Science II,” explained Thies. She said students are taught various techniques including micropropagation, division, cuttings, layering, budding and grafting, and are then required to demonstrate each.

“Through all these laboratory exercises, students are informed about the spread of disease, following proper procedures, techniques and use of equipment that can be carried over into other biotechnology/agriscience based projects, not just in horticulture,” Thies said.

In addition to horticulture, Thies said Boonville students have also studied and researched various types of GMO’s and presented the results of their product’s development, use, ramifications or oppositions to use.

This year a Boonville FFA student is working on a project involving

dairy reproduction and leptospirosis and she will present her information at the 2011 Agriscience fair in August.

Thies said through the agriscience projects and learning about propagations, students have been able to use that information in collegiate studies, which will help them in future careers.

“From basic information learned during classes in regards to plant science, our department now has a student majoring in forestry and is assisting with a graduate student’s work in forestry products for use in biofuels/biomass,” said Thies.

By learning how to follow basic steps, proper utilization of equipment and cause and effect, students can apply their knowledge to all areas of agriculture including conservation, animal science, plant science, food science and many others.

## *Mansfield FFA*

Though the goal is the same, different chapters take different roads to reach the end result. In the Mansfield FFA chapter, agriscience is involved in the classroom in cooperation and partnership with the Mansfield High School science department. Mansfield Agriculture Education instructor Stan Coday said, “We work closely with the science department and teachers which allows us to hit the projects hard.”

The agriculture and science departments have worked out a cooperative credit program for the students. If students complete three years of agriculture classes, that is sufficient to fulfill one science credit requirement toward graduation. “It helps make the student’s schedules more flexible and allows them to learn science in a practical setting,” said Coday.

Coday said it is a goal of the chapter to have projects compete in the national agriscience fair each year. He said Mansfield has had at



Boonville FFA member Melanie Pooch works with ultrasound as part of her agriscience project. Ultrasounding is used for many purposes, including mapping ovaries. The practice can also be used in sexing the calf in the uterus which some farmers use for marketing purposes.



least one project in the national agriscience fair each year since it began. Last year, five students' projects were exhibited at the Missouri State Fair and from there, four projects qualified for nationals. "If all goes well, there

will be eight to 10 projects entered at the state fair this year," Coday said. He explained the chapter has had enough success in the past, that the students see the results and in turn want that success as well.

The students are able to use the greenhouse for experiments in preparation for the agriscience fair. The shop is also utilized for agriscience, involving engineering and mechanical projects.

## Agriscience Student Recognition

The National FFA Agriscience Student of the Year program recognizes high school students who, through scientific research and reasoning, find creative solutions to challenges within the field of agriculture.

Those competing to become the national Agriscience Student of the Year develop hypotheses, conduct research and develop theories pertaining to an agricultural issue. They report their findings to a panel of national FFA judges with a detailed application, a written report, a display, a presentation and an interview.

One National FFA Agriscience Student of the Year and one runner-up is selected each year at the National FFA Convention.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Students who wish to apply for the National Agriscience Student of the Year award must meet the following criteria:

The student must be a current FFA member.

- The student must be a junior or senior in high school, or a freshman in college. Freshmen must be immediate high school graduates.
- If the student is a college freshman,

he or she must be majoring in an agriculture-related field.

- All research must be initiated while the student is in high school, and must be completed by Dec. 31 in the year of his or her high school graduation.
- The student must be certified eligible to compete in the national competition by his or her state FFA association.

For more information about qualifications and requirements, see the National Agriscience Student of the Year Application.

### AWARDS

Agriscience Student of the Year awards are available at the chapter, state and national levels.

### CHAPTER LEVEL

FFA chapters who choose to participate in the program select an Agriscience Student of the Year and runners-up. The chapter's winning applications are then sent to their state FFA association for entry into the state-level competition.

Free medals and certificates for Chapter Agriscience Student of the Year winners are available from the National FFA Organization by request. FFA Advisors who would like to order medals and certificates can submit

the Award Medal Request Form to the National FFA Center.

### STATE LEVEL

- Each State Agriscience Student of the Year winner receives a \$750 scholarship.
- Each state Agriscience Student of the Year runner-up gets a \$500 scholarship.
- The state winner and runner-up are eligible to compete at the national level.

### NATIONAL LEVEL

The National FFA Organization selects eight national finalists to compete for the national Agriscience Student of the Year award.

- Each finalist receives a \$1000 scholarship and a plaque.
- The eight finalists present their projects to a panel of judges at the National FFA Convention. From the eight finalists, the judges select one national winner and one runner-up.
- The national Agriscience Student of the Year Runner-up receives a \$1,500 scholarship and a plaque.
- The national Agriscience Student of the Year receives a \$3,500 scholarship and a plaque.

# Finding the Funds

## Chapter fundraiser helps community

### MEMBERS WORK ODD JOBS BY HAILEY ROBERTSON

One fundraiser per year is all it takes for the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. An idea that began in the 1950's has progressed into an annual event for the students and community of Chillicothe, raising between \$18,000 and \$22,000 per year for the FFA chapter. The member/community work project is the sole fundraiser for the chapter each year. It all starts at the beginning of September and runs until the end of October, when the barnwarming dance is held as the completion of the project.

Students must go out into the community and offer their help and sell their labor in turn to earn their money. Jobs must involve physical labor such as cleaning barns, fixing fences or even helping individuals move out of their house.

There are around 200 members of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. Agriculture Education instructors Leda Schreiner and Rusty Black head up the program. Each year the students put an advertisement in the local newspaper reminding the community that the project is underway. The students also run an announcement on a local radio station telling members of the community to call in jobs they have for the FFA students to complete.

Each class is in competition with the other with king and queen candidates selected for each one. At barnwarming the class that has raised the most money is declared the winner. The total is an average based on the number of students in each class.

A barnwarming dance completes Chillicothe FFA's member/community work project, which serves as the chapter's lone fundraiser. Here, Lauren Dietzschold and Travis Henry reign as queen and king of the barnwarming.



There are incentives for the students to participate. Schreiner said for the project the students are required to raise a minimum amount of money to be in good standing with the chapter. Being in good standing means the ability to participate on contest teams and attend trips. The other incentives are a free t-shirt if the student raises at least \$75 or a sweatshirt if \$150 is raised.

Whether a long-standing tradition is already in place or a new idea is needed, get creative and find ways to raise funds for your FFA chapter!

Chillicothe FFA member Jonathan Stanfield spreads mulch to help raise funds for his FFA chapter. The member/community work project raises 18,000-\$22,000 annually for the chapter.



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# Set Up for Success

## Leeton FFA's grocery store teaches business skills

### WIN-WIN FOR COMMUNITY BY HAILEY ROBERTSON

Every day experience —that's what it's all about for members of the Leeton FFA chapter. Leeton provides the only place to purchase groceries in the small Johnson County town.

"Our goal is to set the students up with success," explained Leeton agriculture educator Bonnie Seymour. "We wanted to offer students every day experience, use it for class credit and take the knowledge they gain and use it."

The Cooperative Business education project is a joint initiative with the agriculture and business departments at Leeton High School. The grocery store is run by Seymour's ag business class and Mari Jayne Manley's business entrepreneurship class with help from Amber Wilson, a 2nd grade teacher in Leeton.

The process of starting a grocery store in Leeton began with the idea of having a school-based enterprise that benefited both the students and the community. Town leaders and a previous superintendent at Leeton presented the idea to Seymour and Manley in November of 2008 and the store was open for business in January 2009.

Prior to this grocery store, Casey's General Store was the only place in town to get necessities. Other options were traveling at least 20 miles to Warrensburg or Clinton.

Leeton Agriculture Education Instructor Bonnie Seymour's goal is to set her students up for success. Leeton's FFA chapter operates a grocery store in the small Johnson county town, giving students a first-hand look at operating a business.





Seymour said after a community survey, they could see there was a need for something like this.

After the initiative was put in place, Seymour said they ran into obstacles, such as locating a building and lack of finances. Meanwhile, the Bank of Leeton that was located in downtown Leeton, was planning to construct a new building at a different location. After hearing the idea, the bank offered the school an option to lease their old building for \$1 per year on a 30-year contract.

The first year the store was open, 15 students were involved while the project spanned to 22 students its second year. Project leaders decided that was too many. Of Leeton's 35 students, seven participate in the grocery store enterprise, while another seven take part from the school's business department. The students are graded for both classroom curriculum and lab work. They can participate in the program their sophomore, junior and senior years, if they choose.

The students can enter the program their sophomore year by going through an application and interviewing process. "We try to treat it just like any other job," said Seymour. Then, the applicants are put through a selection process, and if offered the job they must formally accept.

"The students really enjoy it," Seymour said. "The second and third year students enjoy teaching the new students."

The students run every aspect of the program, including customer service, ordering, stocking, accounts receivable and payable, scheduling, marketing, advertising and cleaning. When the instructors asked the students what one thing they wanted to come away from the program with the knowledge of, they said being able to count change correctly. Part of their quarterly assessment test is being able to count change correctly.

Former members of the Leeton FFA Chapter have gone on to become managers and supervisors of other retail stores after experiencing the business world first-hand through the chapter-operated grocery store.

The grocery store is open year round with store hours from 1:30 p.m.- 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. From October 1 to April 1 each year, hours are extended to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. In addition to working during class time, the students have the option to work at the store after school hours and on Saturdays for minimum wage. Only one student and one supervisor work in the store at one time. A delivery system is in place on Friday evenings. The store also delivers to the school extracurricular activities on an as needed basis.

Seymour said they have seen the impact and success this program can bring the students involved. She said they have had students become managers and supervisors at other retail jobs after going through the program. "We feel students leave the program with skills and knowledge that will help them in both their immediate future and long term," said Seymour. "We are very proud of our students."



# In Their Words

## Up close with your Missouri State FFA Officers



### COREY HUDSON

**M**y name is Corey Hudson and I'm serving as your State FFA Vice President from Area 5. I'm in my senior year at Silex High School.

I have a deep passion for the great American pastime of baseball, and I have played on our school's team for three years. This past season, we had a very young team—the only upperclassmen

we had were a senior and one other junior). Our regular season record was definitely on the depressing side, with only two wins and seven losses.

Although there has been negativity through losing so much during one of my last few years to play the game, an optimistic light shines through. With such a young team, there were a lot of underclassmen getting the chance to play at a higher level. In future seasons our school will be a more experienced team with a bright future.

In FFA, we have to do the same and spring on the chances we are given. If we work at a high level in our FFA chapters, we will be prepared to succeed down the road. Greenhands, as first year members I challenge you to take full advantage of all the FFA has to offer. You can use these opportunities to prepare yourself to be the best FFA member you can be.



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### CODY JONES

**I**am so excited to be serving as the Area IV State FFA Vice President!

Freshman year is one of the most exciting times for FFA members and mine was no different. I had a great time learning about the FFA and what it was to be a member. When it came time for contest season, I decided to give a speech. I walked into a room full of anxious participants who had all

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worked hard and were just as scared and shy as I was. Then, I remembered my dad's advice—if you are not nervous, you don't care.

I took Dad's advice to heart and became very excited to meet the other FFA members around me. We had a great time talking and learning about the struggles that we all went through while creating our speeches. When it was my turn to give my speech, I had a new confidence and I realized no matter what happened I had made some really great friends. Even though I was nervous I still did my best.

No matter how nervous we may get or how shy we are, the FFA gives us the opportunity to share our passion for agriculture and make some great friends.

## EVAN GRUSENMEYER

Not long ago someone told me that life is like a giant play. There are many acts and parts that make up the play. Behind every main character are dozens of supporters—such as stagehands, writers, lighting crew, directors, etc.—to help make his or her part the best it can be.

These supporters put forth their time and effort so that the star up on stage can look and perform his or her best. The same concept is applied to FFA and its thousands of members. For every member there are dozens of supporters—from friends and family to other FFA members and especially advisers. Supporters

put their all into every Career Development Event practice, interview, speech practice or any other activity with which a member needs assistance.

When we look at life like a giant plan, it sheds a light onto things that we should all do. First, it is beneficial, and sometimes necessary, to rely on others. Second, as you move through FFA and move on, never forget why you are there

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# In Their Words

## Up close with your Missouri State FFA Officers

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and the experiences and people who got you there. Finally, always be thankful for those who have helped you along the way and be sure to tell them the impact they had on your life.

It's exciting to be serving as your State FFA First Vice President. I look forward to meeting you!

### MEGAN MAYFIELD

It has been said, "Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are."

In-between my sophomore

and junior year of high school I was told that I would no longer be attending the school I had went to since kindergarten. I was scared, mad, and not sure about change. Little did I know this one obstacle would lead me to who I am today.

The day I went to register at my new school, the ag building was one of




my first stops. I did not know what to say, do, or how to feel as this was something totally new for me.


I had a choice, though. I could either rise to the occasion or give up and complain. I rose to the occasion and made the best of everything I had while at Fair Grove. At the time of moving I did not know what amazing plans were in store for me, but when I look back today I would not have it any other way.

I resigned as 1<sup>st</sup> vice president of my chapter when I moved thinking that I would not have a chance to get to run for area office that year or state the next. I had to prove myself yet once again. That year I served as Area X FFA Vice President and today I am currently serving as a State Vice President.

FFA members, the choice is yours. Will you let life's obstacles get you down or will you rise to the occasion?

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## LANE HOWARD



This event taught me to never give up on something you want. You may not get it the first time, but there will be more opportunities to come. Sometimes you just have to work harder. Had I not tried my first day, I might never have overcome my fears and achieved my goals. FFA members, work to overcome your fears so that you can live life to its fullest.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Missouri FFA Today welcomes your comments, chapter notes and story ideas. Send them to us at:

joann.pipkin@att.net

or call:

417.732.8552

The fall of my freshman year brought about a new era in my life: I was an FFA member. I did not realize it, but this would bring many new and exciting changes. I was pretty nervous going into my first day of class because I had to say the FFA Creed in front of the whole class. Despite my fears, I said the entire Creed on the first day, and I felt better because of this. I knew that this would be the beginning of the most amazing four years of my life.

Since I stepped out of my shell on that first day, I decided no harm could come from trying to do a fall speaking contest. However, I did not do as well as I had hoped. I was last in my particular contest. I did not let this get me down, though. I worked harder on preparing for my speech and I tried again the next year. This time I achieved a goal: I was first place at Area contests.

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# Speak Out

Opportunities abound for speaking contests this fall

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Kristi Livingston: [LivingstonK@missouri.edu](mailto:LivingstonK@missouri.edu)

## MO SHEEP PRODUCERS

<http://www.missourisheep.com/youthprograms.htm>

Contact:

Leon Busdieker

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Hawk Point, MO 63349

## MO PORK ASSOCIATION

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Contact:

Diane Slater

Missouri Pork Association

6235 W. Cunningham Dr.

Columbia, MO 65202

573 445-8375

[diane@mopork.com](mailto:diane@mopork.com)

## MO ASSOC. OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Contact:

Peggy Lemons

1209 Biscayne Drive

Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-893-7238

Email: [peggyl@maswcd.net](mailto:peggyl@maswcd.net)

## MO YOUNG FARMERS/YOUNG FARM WIVES ASSOC.

Contact:

Lisa Evans

573-751-8467

Email: [lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov)

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Contact: Eric Volmer

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Samantha Gibson took home top honors from the 2010 Missouri Farm Bureau State FFA Public Speaking Contest.



# FFA Calendar

## Missouri FFA is on the Move

### SEPTEMBER

2	MU Delta Center Field Day Portageville
8	MU SW Center Field Day Mount Vernon
10	Fall Classic Yth Trap Tourney Linn Creek
10	Meet Mizzou Day Columbia
10-17	SEMO District Fair Cape Girardeau
13	Ag Ed/FFA Day Bradford Ctr. Columbia
15	Hundley/Whaley Center FFA Day Albany
16	Graves-Chapple Farm FFA Day Corning
18-24	National Farm Safety/Health Wk. Thompson Farm Field Day Spickard
24	MU South Farm Showcase Columbia
26-30	Delta Fair - Kennett
30	SC/SE District Grasslands Wkshp Alton

### OCTOBER

1	NE District Trap Shoot - Katonka
3	Preview Mizzou Columbia
4	NWMSU Fall CDE's Maryville
4	Southeast District Grasslands Contest-TBA
5	SEMO Field Day Cape Girardeau
6	Northeast District Grasslands Contest-TBA
6	Central District Grasslands Contest-TBA
6	Southwest District Grasslands Contest-TBA
6	AG Ed/FFA Day - MU Wurdack Farm Cook Station
7-10	Ozark Fall Farmfest - Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Springfield

### OCTOBER

8-18	SC District Postal Trap Shoot
12	Rocky Creek Ecology Day Shannon County
13	Northwest District Grasslands Contest-TBA
13	South Central District Grasslands Contest-TBA
13	NE Regional Envirothon Greenley Research Center, Novelty
19-22	National FFA Convention Indianapolis, Ind.
21-30	American Royal Livestock Show Kansas City
27-29	American Royal PRCA Pro Rodeo Kansas City
27	State Grassland Evaluation Contest Columbia vicinity

### NOVEMBER

1-4	American Royal Invitational Youth Rodeo Kansas City
2	Southwest Regional Envirothon Springfield
3	Northwest Regional Envirothon Plattsburg
5	Meet Mizzou Day Columbia
8	South Central District Fall Speaking Contest Rolla
9	Central District Fall Speaking Contest Univ. Central Missouri, Warrensburg
10	Southeast District Speaking Contest Bloomfield
10	Southwest District Speaking Contest Missouri State Univ., Springfield
14	United Sportsman League Wildlife Grant Applications DUE
15	Northeast District Fall Speaking Contests South Shelby
16	Northwest District Fall Speaking Contests Cameron



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\*Applicants must meet all qualifications to be eligible for a scholarship.

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Megan Behring	Andrew Cauthorn	Shelby Esser	Zachary Grossman	Sadie Kinne	Alyssa Mackey	Dustin Stanton	Zachery Watts
Ben Brown	Lauren Cofer	Kaitlin Flick	Kara Hamblen	Lauren Kliethermes	Will Moore	Jacob Stoll	Amy Zuroweste
Dylan Bussell	Ben Delaney	Sara Gillum	Zachary Henderson	Andrew Laut	Rebecca Neill	John Vogelsmeier	

*Not pictured: Jonathan Blanchard, Kathryn Coon, Dayne Voelker*



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